

Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee

August 30, 2007

Meet-Me-Call

Call to Order:

Roll Call was taken with the following members present: Bill Heberle, Dottie Mullikin, John Robbins, Deb Cook, Dr. Mariann Atwell, Elizabeth Makulec, Dr. Stan Edlavitch, Sheila Osborn, Ed Riedel, Lesley Levin

Members absent: Donna Scott, Aurita Prince-Caldwell, Chad Hampton, Dr. Maureen Hennessey, Susan Calloway, Sen. Charlie Shields, Rep. Connie Johnson, Dr. Joseph Parks

Other participants: Teresa Robbins, Scott Perkins, Debbie Meller, Sue Kremer

Minutes of June 26 & 27, 2007 Meeting

A motion was made by Elizabeth Makulec and seconded by Mariann Atwell that the minutes of the June meeting be approved after a correction is made to page 5 to reflect suicide can be “prevented” rather than “preventable”. The minutes as amended were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Wristcutters

As noted in earlier discussions, it is still the general consensus that SPAC would support the work being done by national organizations. What kind of action does SPAC want to take at this time? A discussion considered direct action by SPAC as well as indirect action. Reviewing the mandate for SPAC makes it clear that looking at the media messages for suicide is part of the expectations for the Advisory Committee. College campuses are still being targeted so it was suggested that possible contact be made with Jason at Linn Technical College and Joan Masters at MU. It was discussed that this should be referred to Partners in Prevention. This would be logical since the network is already set up. The original letter could be reworded to refer more to college campuses. It was agreed by consensus to refer this to Partners in Prevention since we provide funding to them for suicide prevention under the youth grant.

Update on Surveys to other states and within Missouri

An e-mail was sent to the President of NASMHPD (National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors) asking about sending the survey nationwide to the mental health directors. They preferred not to send the survey at this time since two major surveys had just been sent to the NASMHPD Directors. It was suggested that another avenue be pursued to obtain the information. This national report is for comparative purposes and it was suggested that the SPRC contact in each state should be sent the survey for this information. This survey would help with lessons learned in other states and how these could be used in Missouri.

Staff sent surveys at the county and local agency level. Some respondents are taking this seriously; others are returning it with no real information. The information about needs for material and the existence of suicide prevention activities will be included in the biannual report.

September 10 & 11 Conference

Scott reported that there is free registration, mileage and lodging for SPAC members at the upcoming conference. For a full list of speakers and details about the conference refer to <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/cps/issues/suicide/2007Conf.pdf>

Subcommittee Reports

Public Awareness Subcommittee

John Robbins reported on behalf of the Public Awareness Subcommittee. He reported that the subcommittee had previously planned to send a survey but that has been put on hold since the full committee is doing this.

The proclamation for Suicide Prevention Week has been submitted to the Governor's office for signature.

Newspaper articles are published from time to time about suicide prevention. It was suggested by the subcommittee that an award be given, on behalf of the SPAC, to a newspaper that has done a good job of reporting on suicide prevention. This could be done annually during Suicide Prevention Week. This award could be extended to other media in future years.

Since time is too short to do something for Suicide Prevention Week 2007, it was suggested that SPAC (specifically the Subcommittee on Awareness) nominate appropriate media for the CPS Advisory Committee award given on Mental Health Awareness Day. The criteria developed by the CPS SAC might be appropriate for the Awareness Subcommittee to use as a model. Mariann offered to forward that criteria to John.

Legislative Subcommittee

Mariann reported that she and Dr. Parks have not met since the last meeting so have nothing new to report. Stan was thanked for providing information on the difficulties with the current version of the "Good Samaritan" law. This has been forwarded to Dr. Parks and is in the information attached to the agenda for this call. Debbie indicated that Dr. Parks will be working on the wording of the Good Samaritan legislation tomorrow.

Legislation was passed in Tennessee which mandates 2 hours a year for principal and teacher training on suicide prevention. Before a final vote was taken, the bill was amended to allow the requirement to be met by taking an on-line suicide prevention course. The Jason Flatt Foundation posted such a course on their website to make it easier for teachers and administrators to fulfill this requirement. John felt that legislation mandating specific training

in suicide prevention would not be endorsed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)-Comprehensive guidance and other measures within the state could address some of this. Dr. Parks wanted to know about trying to put through legislation and then present it to DESE. John was clear to indicate that SPAC is an independent group and could choose to go that route. It was added that another avenue may be to work with the Missouri School Board Association. Schools must do training relative to violence and suicide prevention is certainly considered one way to meet this requirement. Thus, suicide prevention training is allowed but not mandated.

Dr. John Heskett has been asked for his suggestions regarding the idea of proposing potential legislation. He felt when trying to insert in curriculum the most successful means may be through guidance. If the Advisory Committee chooses, it can move forward to propose legislative changes relative to suicide prevention independent of DESE. However, it would have a greater chance of success if DESE supported the legislation. One possibility would be to attempt legislation with an activation time of 5 years down the road.

Discussion ensued about training still being needed and whether this should be for teachers or students. Research indicates mixed results relative to short term student training. This discussion will be continued at another meeting.

Goals and Objectives Subcommittee

Stan reported that this subcommittee is in the process of setting up a meeting. They have not met since the last meeting.

Bi-annual Report

The process of collecting materials for this report is well under way. Several reports to the Legislature from similar advisory committees in other states have been studied. Almost all materials reviewed list a vision and mission followed by goals and objectives. The vision sets the overarching theme, the mission makes accomplishing this more specific and the articulated goals, objectives/activities flow from this. This is not true for our Advisory Committee: the goals were formulated before the mission statement, so there is not a smooth alignment. There is some difficulty in knowing what to do with SPAC. There is no current vision statement for our initiative. Several mission statements were presented including the current one for Missouri. The group was unable to correctly identify the current mission statement. It was asked whether the groups wanted to retain the current mission statement. They decided to keep the present one until the vision is completed. Lesley Levin and Stan Edlavitch volunteered to work on a vision statement which will be discussed at the next meeting.

News Article

The Springfield News-Leader article "Suicide is painful, but should be addressed" was included in the packet of information for the meeting. The parents in the interview are interested in writing something for the bi-annual report.

Discussion about stigma took place with the agreement that anytime people come forward, stigma is addressed.

It was further noted that on September 12 training has been scheduled with the Sheriffs.

Individual Suicide Activities

Ed Riedel reported:

- 2 day Suicide ASIST training in Maryville
- 3 more ASIST training scheduled in Kansas City, Columbia and St. Louis – possibility of one to be scheduled in November in Springfield
- Mini-grant awardees are putting on training
- Partners in Prevention are notifying everyone about the training
- Mexico has a new ASIST trainer

Expectations

An example of expectations of the Alaska Suicide Prevention Advisory Committee was shared with members (Attachment F) and asked if there was any interest in looking at something like this for Missouri. This document reflects what the people are already doing. We will discuss this at our next face-to-face meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively set for September 18 and 19. Since the Conference, *Advancing Suicide Prevention in Missouri*, is scheduled the previous week, Sue will poll the group and determine whether the meeting will be rescheduled.